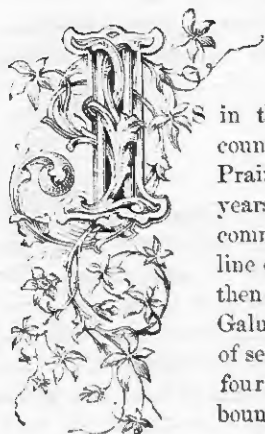


# CUTLER

PERRY CO.



in the extreme western portion of the county. It is better known as Lost Prairie, which name was changed a few years ago. Its northern boundary line commencing at the west, is the south line of section thirty-one of Grand Cote, then following along the west bank of Galum Creek to the southeast corner of section eight of town five south, range four west, thence due east to the western boundary line of town five, range three west. On the east it is bounded by

Pinckneyville, on the south by South Western, on the west by Randolph county, and on the north by Grand Cote. It comprises the two northern tiers of sections in town six, range four, and all of congressional town five south, range three, save those sections lying east of Galum Creek and north of the southern boundary line of those sections north of the boundary line of the tier beginning with section thirteen of that town. It is admirably watered and drained by both branches of Galum Creek, which enter from the north at sections three and six, and unite in section thirty-four, flowing southeast and passing out at the southeast corner of the precinct.

The Tamaroa, Chester & Western railroad passes through this precinct from the northeast to the southwest. A large portion of this precinct was formerly timber land, though the Six Mile Prairie extended from north to south, through the entire precinct. Much of the timber land has been converted into valuable farms. Conant's and Eaton's prairie are also within the limits of this precinct; and the lower edge of the Lost Prairie has its terminus in the northern part. It received the name of Lost Prairie at a very early day in the history of the county. The occasion of giving it that name, grew out of the circumstance of a party of several men getting lost there on their way from Vincennes to Kaskaskia. The date of its receiving that name is not known, or the circumstances that gave rise to it, other than above stated.

Among the first settlers was Enoch Eaton, who is still living. He settled on the N. E. one-quarter of section 24, T. 5, R. 4, where he now resides, in 1825, the territory belonging then to Randolph county, previous to the organization of Perry. There were at that time only six or seven families residing in the precinct. Their names were John Murphy, the father of Robert, James, Richard G. and William C. Murphy, names familiarly interwoven with the history of this county, and natives of Smith county, Tennessee; the family of Richard Green, a native of N. Y.;

Hugh Brown, the father of John Brown of Conant's prairie, from South Carolina; Matthew Vaun, from Tennessee; Andrew Cooper and Shadrach Lively. The nearest post-office in those early days was Kaskaskia, and this was also the place of the nearest store, kept by a merchant, Lamm. The nearest grist mill was that of George Steele, on the present site of Steelesville. It was a tread mill operated by five or six yoke of oxen. The early settlers had most of their blacksmith work done at that place also.

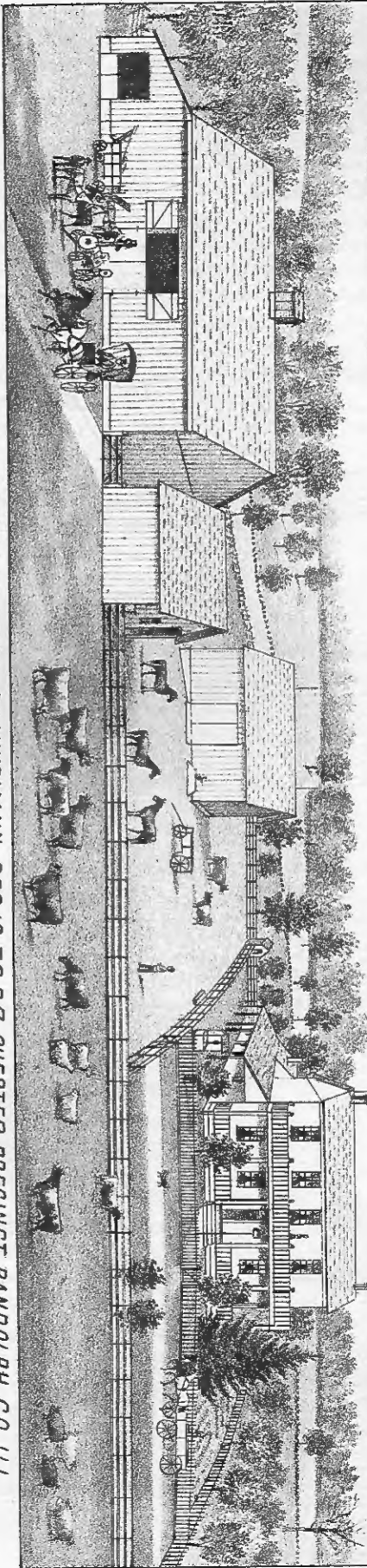
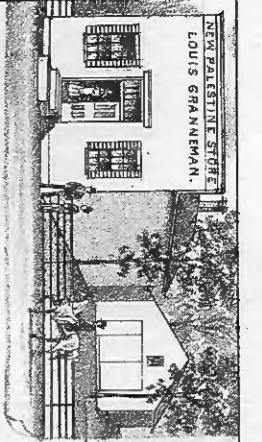
In 1830, Isaac Eaton opened a cabinet shop in the precinct. He stocked plows, put up some wagons, and did general repairing. He constructed a turning lathe, and furnished the neighbors with bedsteads, chairs, tables, &c., and especially spinning-wheels. His pay was often work for work. The party who came for work would go out and make rails for him, while he worked in the shop. He relates the circumstance which is not liable now to occur to our minds, that there were no matches in those early days. If a family happened to let the fire go out, the first thing to do would be, to go out and see from what one of the neighbors' chimney smoke could be discovered, so that no mistake might be made when in quest of fire. It used to be quite a common remark, years after matches came into use, when a neighbor went to another's house in a hurry, for him to ask "if he was after fire," as one was always regarded as being in a hurry when after that element, especially to get breakfast. A flint and steel were sometimes used to start a fire, and were, in those early days, the stand-by, when all other expedients failed.

In 1832 a Baptist church was organized by Peter Hagler in Eaton's prairie, at the house of Samuel Eaton.

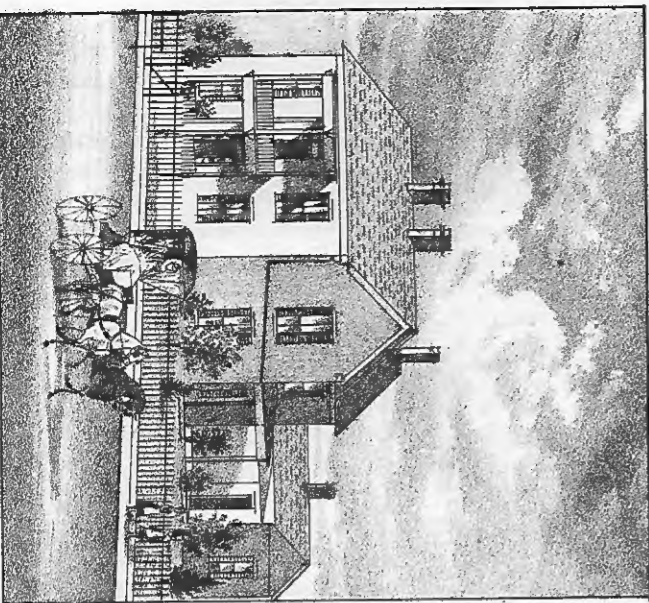
A church building was put up about that time by the members of this denomination, on a ridge north of the Sparta road, between Lost prairie and Eaton's prairie, and was the only church building for many years in that precinct.

About 1832, Clark built a horse or ox mill. This mill proved a failure, and did not run long. It was located on the east side of Lost prairie, about a fourth of a mile north of the Sparta road. The settlers then got their milling done at Pope's Steam Mill, on Mary's river, in Randolph county.

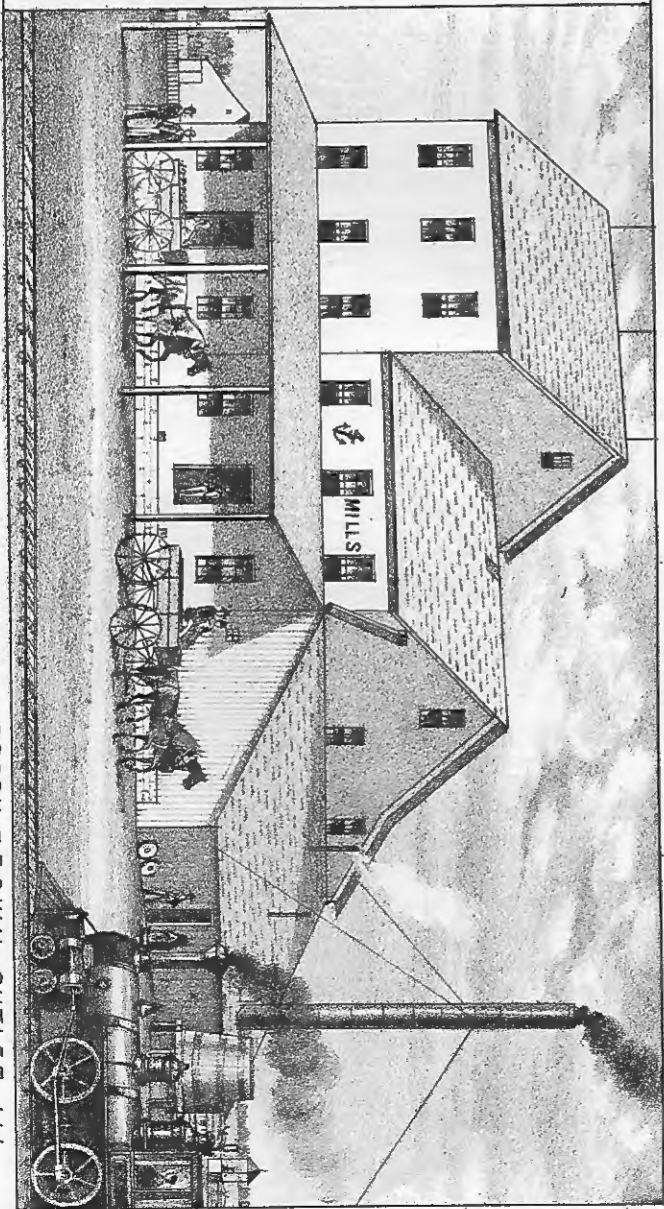
The first school taught in Lost prairie was in 1827 or '28. It was taught in a barn belonging to Green, by Miss Elvira Tilden. It was a neighborhood school, and consisted of about ten scholars. The tuition paid was two dollars per scholar. In 1835 the first school-house was built in the precinct, on section 16, T. 5, R. 3, by the neighborhood. It was a rude log cabin, covered with clap-boards, secured by ridge pales. A log cut out of one side served for a window without any glass. The desks, as well as seats, were of split



RESIDENCE, FARM AND OTHER PROPERTY OF LOUIS GRANNEMANN, SEC. 13, T. 6, R. 7, CHESTER PRECINCT, RANDOLPH CO. ILL.



RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH BROWN, CUTLER, ILL.



ANCHOR FLOURING MILLS, THE PROPERTY OF JOSEPH BROWN, CUTLER, ILL.





logs. The first school teacher was John Cooper, a South Carolinian. The house was built in the spring, and he taught school in it during the summer season. The school-books consisted of the old-fashioned Webster's spelling book, biographical sketches, and the Testament for reading; Pike's arithmetic, and Walker's dictionary. These constituted our first boys' school, and outfit in those early days and a boy was considered lucky if he had all of those.

In 1837, a school was kept in the edge of Conant's prairie, near Robert Cunningham's. It was soon after removed near where Squire Henry Brown lived.

Dr. Brayshaw, in Nine Mile, near old Du Quoin, administered to the medical wants of the earliest settlers in this precinct, as in many others, for several years, when the county was in its infancy. Their next physician was Dr. Jennegin, located at Steele's Mills.

The lawyers, known to the early settlers of that precinct, were David J. Baker, Sidney Breese, Col. J. L. D. Morrison, of Kaskaskia; John Daugherty, of Union county; Jeff Gatewood, and S. S. Marshall, of Shawneetown, and old Governor Reynolds. These were the legal fraternity that most generally followed the courts around from circuit to circuit, and from county to county. People did not need many lawyers, in those days, and we sometimes hear a sigh for a return of those good old days.

The following are the first land entries in that portion of T. 5 S., R. 4 W., which is included in Cutler: April 25, 1815, William McIntosh entered the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 34. March 27, 1818, Matthew Vaun entered the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 21. January 13, 1819, Shadrach Lively entered the E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 31. March 10, 1819, Charles Owen entered the E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 33. January 6, 1820, Alexander Wier entered the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 8.

#### CUTLER.

This village was laid out by D. C. Barber, president, and W. B. Stephenson, secretary of the Chester and Tamaroa

Coal and Railroad Company, on the east half of the southwest quarter of section five, township six south, range four; and by R. C. Allen, on a part of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section. It was platted and surveyed by J. V. Tyler, County Surveyor, February 25, 1873. It is situated in the southwest corner of the precinct of the same name, and is a station on the Chester and Tamaroa railroad. The village school-house is a frame building in which is taught an ungraded school. The United Presbyterians, since the fall of 1881, have met for worship in a neat frame church. Half a mile north of the hamlet, the Reformed Presbyterians have a handsome brick church, which was built in 1858. Near the village is Maynard's coal mine, from which are daily raised, by horse power, about one hundred and fifty bushels of coal.

#### PRESENT BUSINESS.

*Physicians.*—A. Bruce, F. P. Gillis.

*Druggists.*—Bruce & White, F. Famen.

*General Stores.*—Gardner and Bros., C. Preston.

*Books and Stationery.*—John McClure.

*Lumber.*—W. T. White & Co.

*Grain Elevator.*—H. C. Cole & Co.

*General Merchandise, Grain and Livery.*—John Brown.

*Mill.*—Joseph Brown.

*Station Agent.*—W. T. White.

*Saw Mill.*—Battey Bros.

*Carpenter.*—Henry Darrough.

*Blacksmith.*—James Kelso, George Krontz.

*Shoemaker.*—Peter Keller.

#### CONANTS.

*General Store and Post-office.*—P. J. C. Hamm.

*Saw Mill.*—J. Shutt.

*Blacksmith.*—E. Koontz.

## NEW HANOVER.

### MONROE COUNTY.



HIS precinct was created in the year 1875 out of Eagle, Fountain and Bluff. It lies in the northern part of the county, and embraces in geographical area portions of township 1 south, range 10 west, and township 2 south, ranges 10 and 11 west. The population, census of 1880, was 568. The surface, generally, is elevated and broken. Drainage is afforded by Fountain creek and Andrews' run, a tributary flowing west. There is an abundance of lime rock along both these streams, and of sandstone along the latter.

Attica, a station on the St. Louis and Cairo R. R., which extends north and south through the eastern part of the precinct, is a convenient shipping point. The inhabitants at present are principally German and of German descent. They speak the English language as well as that of their native tongue. It is a subject worthy of remark, that while the German builds his residence of brick, the pioneer or his descendant occupies the primitive log dwelling. He adheres to it apparently with an attachment not unlike that evinced by the Indian for the game-haunted hillside and ravine. There are two public schools in the precinct, one in the